

Message Text

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ACTION VO-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 DHA-02 ORM-02

INSE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 L-03 H-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 PA-01 USIA-06 IO-13 /092 W

-----121859Z 020728 /46

R 121803Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9407

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 00555

E. O. 11652: XGDS-L

TAGS: CVIS, PFOR, IN

SUBJECT: ADMISSIBILITY OF ANANDAMARGA MONKS INTO UK

REF: 75 STATE 254763; 75 STATE 273572

1. SUMMARY: THE ISSUE OF THE ELIGIBILITY FOR ADMISSION INTO BRITAIN OF NON-BRITISH MEMBERS OF THE ANANDAMARGA HAS ESCALATED INTO A HIGH-LEVEL CONTROVERSY AS THE RESULT OF AN INITIAL DECISION BY HMG TO DENY ADMISSION TO TWO ANANDA MARGA MONKS. IN MID-DECEMBER HOME SECRETARY REES FIRST ORDERED THE MONKS, WHO WERE DETAINED AT LONDON AIRPORT AFTER SEEKING ASYLUM, TO BE REFUSED ENTRY INTO THE UK. HOWEVER, HE THEN DEFERRED THE "REMOVAL" ORDER PENDING THE OUTCOME OF A LEGAL APPLICATION ON BEHALF OF THE MONKS TO THE HIGH COURT. IN OCTOBER 1975 THE DEPARTMENT EXPRESSED INTEREST IN BRITISH POLICY ON THE ANANDA MARGA, WHICH WAS NOT THEN CRYSTALLIZED. END SUMMARY

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2. TWO INDIAN MONKS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE ANANDA MARGA SECT, RAM SWARETH ROY AND NAMEDESHWAR PRASAD, REPORTEDLY LEFT INDIA FOR NEPAL A YEAR AGO AND ON OR ABOUT DECEMBER 14 PROCEEDED FROM NEPAL VIA LONDON TO SWEDEN, WHERE THEY SOUGHT ASYLUM. ACCORDING TO REPORTING IN THE GUARDIAN, WHICH THE FCO ACCEPTS, THE

SWEDISH GOVERNMENT DENIED THEM ASYLUM OR ADMISSION BECAUSE WHILE TRANSITING LONDON THEY HAD SPENT THE NIGHT AT LONDON AIRPORT, THUS MAKING THEM A BRITISH RATHER THAN A SWEDISH ADMISSION CASE. THE MONKS RETURNED TO LONDON WHERE THEY WERE DETAINED. ACCORDING TO ONE REPORT THEY SAID THEY WERE ENROUTE TO DACCA BUT WERE REFUSED ONWARD TRANSIT BECAUSE IT WAS SUSPECTED THEY WOULD BE REFUSED ENTRY INTO BANGLADESH. THEY THEN ASKED FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM IN BRITAIN. SUBSEQUENTLY THE HOME OFFICE DECIDED THAT THE TWO SHOULD BE DENIED ADMISSION AND RETURNED DIRECTLY TO NEPAL. THE HOME OFFICE REJECTED THE CONTENTION THAT THEY WOULD BE PERSECUTED BACK IN NEPAL, AND HOME SECRETARY REES ORDERED THEIR REMOVAL.

3. MEANWHILE, BRITISH MEMBERS OF THE ANANDA MARGA SECT STARTED ACTIVITY TO SUPPORT THE MONKS' REQUEST FOR ASYLUM HERE. IN ADDITION TO LEGAL ACTIVITY, THEIR CASE WAS TAKEN UP PUBLICLY BY LABOR MP ERIC MOONMAN AND LIBERAL MP JEREMY THORPE. ANANDA MARGA MEMBERS IN LONDON ALSO CONTACTED THE UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES.

4. ON JANUARY 11 THE FCO INDIA DESK OFFICER, HUM, REVIEWED EVOLVING BRITISH POLICY ON ANANDA MARGA FOR EMBOFF. HMG FINDS THE ACTIVITIES OF THE BRITISH MEMBERS FUNCTIONING IN BRITAIN TO BE INNOCUOUS. THEY DID REQUEST THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS REGARDING THE IMPRISONMENT OF ANANDA MARGA MEMBER

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SARKAR IN INDIA, BUT HMG, WHICH HAD SOME INDICATION THAT SARKAR ADVOCATED VIOLENCE AND POSED A THREAT TO LAW AND ORDER, DECLINED TO INVOLVE ITSELF.

5. BRITISH CONTINUE TO FACE A PROBLEM REGARDING THE ELIGIBILITY FOR ADMISSION INTO THE UK OF INDIAN (AS DISTINCT FROM NON-INDIAN) MEMBERS OF THE ANANDA MARGA. ACCORDING TO HUM, THE DECISION HAS BEEN MADE TO LOOK AT EACH CASE AS IT COMES UP. FOR EXAMPLE, INDICATIONS MIGHT BE RECEIVED THAT ANANDA MARGA MEMBERS FROM INDIA SOUGHT ENTRY INTO THE UK IN ORDER TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST INDIAN OFFICIALS. IN THE CASE OF THESE TWO MONKS, HUM SAID, HMG FELT THEIR REQUEST FOR ASYLUM WAS NOT JUSTIFIED SINCE THEY HAD LIVED IN NEPAL FOR A YEAR AND HAD GIVEN NO EVIDENCE THAT THEY HAD BEEN OR WOULD BE PERSECUTED IN NEPAL OR HANDED OVER TO INDIA.

6. EVENING OF JANUARY 11 MP'S FORMALLY CHALLENGED HOME SECRETARY REES ON HIS DECISION IN PARLIAMENT.

THORPE ASKED IF THE MONKS WOULD NOT BE ARRESTED FOR
POLITICAL OFFENSES IN NEPAL OR TRANSFERRED TO INDIA

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WHERE THEY WOULD BE SUBJECT TO AUTOMATIC IMPRISONMENT.
THORPE ASSERTED THAT THE MONKS HOLD VALID INTERNATIONAL
RED CROSS TRAVEL DOCUMENTS AND HAVE UN REFUGEE STATUS.
REES REITERATED HIS DECISION THAT THE MONKS "SHOULD BE
REFUSED LEAVE TO ENTER THE UNITED KINGDOM ON THE GROUNDS
THAT THEIR PRESENCE HERE WOULD NOT BE CONDUCIVE TO THE
PUBLIC GOOD." HE ASSERTED THAT "THEY HAVE NOT BEEN
ADMITTED TO SWEDEN, THAILAND, CANADA, THE UNITED STATES,
AND AUSTRALIA," AND THAT "THERE IS A VIOLENT WING TO
THIS ORGANIZATION." LABOR MP MOONMAN SUPPORTED THORPE
BY SAYING "WE HAVE JUST HEARD ONE OF THE MOST SAD
STATEMENTS ON PUBLIC LIBERTY FOR A GENERATION" AND
"THESE TWO MONKS HAVE NO POLITICAL RECORD WHATSOEVER."
REES REJECTED THIS ASSERTION AND STATED, "THERE IS NO
QUESTION OF DEPORTATION BECAUSE THEY HAVE NEVER ENTERED
THE COUNTRY UNDER IMMIGRATION RULES. I WOULD REGARD
IT AS CRASS FOOLISHNESS IF EVERYBODY WHO WAS A MONK
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IN THIS ORGANIZATION HAD ONLY TO APPEAR AT LONDON AIRPORT
TO BE IMMEDIATELY ALLOWED INTO THE COUNTRY."

7. MEANWHILE, HOWEVER, REES NOTED THAT AN APPLICATION
IN THE CASE OF THE MONKS HAD JUST BEEN MADE TO THE
HIGH COURT. ACCORDINGLY, THEIR "REMOVAL" HAS BEEN
TEMPORARILY DEFERRED. THE FCO UNDERSTANDS THAT THEIR
CASE WILL BE HEARD IN COURT ON JANUARY 14.

8. PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE INTEREST EXPRESSED BY
THE DEPARTMENT IN THIS ORGANIZATION, FURTHER DETAILS
WILL BE POUCHED PENDING THE OUTCOME OF THE COURT CASE.

ARMSTRONG

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Message Attributes

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